

# Why did Nazis tattoo Jewish people during WW2 if their goal was to kill them?



14 Answers

**Herskovics Dávid**, lives in European Union

Answered 9 months ago · Author has 64 answers and 18.4K answer views

They did not tattoo those that were killed on their arrival to the concentration camps. Tattoos were only used in Auschwitz and only on those who were sent to slave labor or to medical experiments. They were used to keep records of the still living people.

Not every concentration camp functioned purely as extermination camps (i.e. people transported there were systematically killed as soon as they arrived).

The Auschwitz and Majdanek concentration camps were actually a complex of different camps, part of them were extermination camps while others were slave camps.

In these camps the prisoners deemed to be physically unfit (elderly, children or anyone looking weak) were separated on arrival and sent directly to the gas chambers. The others were put into slave camps where they were worked to death under horrible circumstances. "Working to death" is meant literally: The life expectancy in the labor camps was a few months at most.

The famous Auschwitz gate with the sign of "Arbeit macht frei" ("work sets you free") is the gate of Auschwitz I, the labor camp part of Auschwitz.

The horrific photos about the very few survivors being skin and bones are also from the labor camp - in the extermination camp part (Auschwitz II-Birkenau) there were no survivors.

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When the Nazis tattooed numbers on their prisoners during the Holocaust, it was already a dehumanizing act, but is it known whether the Nazis knew at the time that the Jewish religion prohibits tattoos?

How did Nazis in World War II identify Jews? What did they resort to if they were just suspicious of someone being a Jew?

What was the policy of Mexico towards Jews fleeing the Nazis?

At the end of WWII, when the Jews who survived the Holocaust came home to the very places where many turned them in to the Nazis, what did they do?

Years ago, I was told that in WW2, the Nazis had a senior ranking officer who was secretly Jewish. Is this true?

**Michael Doherty**, Researched the subject for over 25 years

Answered 9 months ago · Author has 2.8K answers and 1.4M answer views

Tattooing only happened in Auschwitz and its ancillary camps when the Jews were selected for labour. The tattoo number then became their only identification. From then on that was the only thing they were called. This had a number of things which benefitted the Nazis. It dehumanised the Jews, and it allowed for the Nazis to think of them as just numbers, not really people, which was psychologically important in allowing the Germans to commit genocide. It also allowed for grouping in certain sections or prisoner categories, Jews, Poles, political prisoners, and so on, and aided the Germans in keeping an accurate tally of prisoners during roll calls and work assignments.

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**Marc Lipshitz**, I am an Orthodox Jew and have studied in Kollel and Yeshivah.

Answered 9 months ago · Author has **8.2K** answers and **3M** answer views

They only tattooed people in a few of the camps. It has become a symbol of the Holocaust but the reality is that the vast majority of the victims were never tattooed. Those who failed "selection" at the camps were sent to their deaths immediately without tattoos. Those killed by Einsatzgruppen were never tattooed.

In most camps even those that weren't killed immediately were not tattooed- in places like Auschwitz where they were it was for record keeping purposes over them as slave labor.

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**Bob Alexander**

Answered 9 months ago · Author has **421** answers and **2M** answer views

The Nazis were fanatical about keeping records. It is my impression that only those selected to be worked to death or subjected to "medical experiments" were tattooed as all others were in the gas chambers within an hour at most after passing through "selection."

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**Jon Trew**Updated 4 years ago · Author has **707** answers and **3.1M** answer views**What happened to Jewish German soldiers when Hitler took power?**

Rass Bariaw's answer leaves a lot to be desired in his answer and adds irrelevant information about the Stern gang which really fails to answer the question and smack of Antisemitism.

The first thing we need to define is what we mean by 'Jewish German soldiers'.

Nazi racial purity laws about who was a Jew ran contrary to Jewish law. Traditionally Jewish law identified people as Jewish if they had a Jewish mother. Nazi racial purity laws on the other hand were far stricter and often people with as little as one Jewish Grandparent were described as non Aryan and part Jewish or 'Mischling'. This term is an offensive name and corresponds to the word 'mongrel' or 'half caste'.

Jerry Klinger in his excellent article 'Hitler's Jewish Soldiers' said "In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws created two new "racial" categories: the half-Jew (Jewish Mischling first degree), and the quarter -Jew (Jewish Mischling second degree). A half-Jew had two Jewish grandparents; a quarter -Jew had one. Since Nazi racial policy declared anyone of the Jewish religion a full Jew regardless of ancestry, most were by definition Christians."

This racial rather than religious attitude to Judaism led to many individuals without any Jewish traditions or beliefs being labelled as Jews. Some caught in this racial trap even went to far as to claim that their mothers had been prostitutes so they could avoid being labelled Jewish. Another way of avoiding this anti Semitic trap was to join the army. Some even quite senior army officers had some Jewish ancestors and it has been suggested went out of their way to prove their loyalty to the Fatherland to shake off any anti Jewish stigma. Many of these 'mischlings' or part Jews in the upper echelons of society were able to get themselves legally reclassified as Aryan. Of course with this wide definition of Jewish many Germans who had been brought up as Christians found themselves classified as Jews. Inevitably some of these individuals were serving in the German armed forces and as time went on and the holocaust threw a wider net even serving or wounded German soldiers who were only part Jewish were shipped off to camps. For more information see [Jewish Soldiers in Hitler's Nazi Army](#) 

## UPDATE

Since writing this answer I've read KL, Nicholas Wachsmann's superb history of the Concentration Camps. Interestingly he talks about German soldiers who were also Gypsies and also became victims of the perverted Nazi racial theory. He says "Among them were a number of former Wehrmacht soldiers (and their immediate families), several of whom had been decorated for bravery on the Eastern Front prior to their deportation to Birkenau. Some of these war veterans had been incredulous at their treatment. "You coward!" one of them shouted on arrival at an SS man. "You fight here against women and children, when you should be fighting at the front! I was wounded in Stalingrad ... How dare you insult me!!"

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**Don Stevon**, B.S. Applied Sciences, State University of New York College at Old Westbury (2019)

Answered March 10, 2021 · Author has **75** answers and **1.2M** answer views

## How were non-Jewish people treated in countries occupied by Nazi Germany during WW2?

Well, if you ask the Eastern Europeans, they'll probably summarize the several years spent under German occupation with a single, and quite powerful word:

**HELL**



Summary executions of entire villages, the theft of property, food, and valuables, the rampant acts of arson against public and private property, and the brutal occupational techniques including the use of locally erected "Auxiliary Police" -were all staple points of German occupation.

You have to remember, that the hate-engine that Hitler and the Nazis had revved up to incite the German people into action required **fuel**. I mean that in a representative sense. The Germans **started** persecuting just Jews, but, this was only a temporary scapegoat. Governments and societies that are unified into functionality through the acts of hatred continuously require *someone* to fill the ever-evolving role of *public enemy number #1*. It starts with Jews.

But then, it becomes Jews and *Roma*.

Then, it becomes Jews, Roma, and *Homosexuals*.

Then, when we start to run out of those, then it becomes **Slavs**.

Now you're talking about the slow progression of systematically exterminating **the entire population of Eastern Europe and most of the Soviet Union**. Which is an impossible task to mount, forgetting just how unspeakably vile the goal is in and of itself.

The Germans mistreated the Eastern Europeans so badly, that the Ukrainians and Belarusians were *willing to go back to **Stalin and the Soviets***, who had treated them like utter garbage for decades beforehand.



-By and large, it is not an inaccurate statement to declare that the Germans (the Wehrmacht included, for those who wish to defend the "*Righteousness and Professionality*" -of the German Heer) -treated the Eastern Europeans like they were little more than **animals**.

If it wasn't bad enough that the Germans had literally waltzed into Eastern Europe- ***with no provocation or justifiable reason*** -and had proceeded to impose their will on entire nationalities of other human beings who just wanted to live in peace, the Germans started erecting ghettos and concentration camps ***with which to kill these people on their own lands***.

Even if you weren't a member of one of the demographics that the Germans targeted, chances were, you still had *friends and relatives who **were***. So, it really doesn't matter if you weren't Jewish. Perhaps, you had a best friend who was, or a girlfriend/boyfriend, or a son-in-law, or a best bud. One day, that person would be taken away by a gang of armed men, thrown in the back of a truck, or a train-car, and would be carted off *screaming*.

You would never see that person again. It's like a scene straight out of a horror movie.





-So, what is a *ghetto*? We all know what the concentration camps were, but we're talking about general people just living under "Basic" -German occupation, not those in the camps. We'll be real specific with this.

It couldn't have been that bad, right? Especially if you weren't Jewish, right?





**No, actually, it was pretty fucking horrid.**

Under German occupation, while it is not accurate to say that *every single* German soldier participated in atrocities and crimes, you still cannot argue the fact that such a reality is **irrelevant**.

You have implemented a state-sanctioned hierarchy where people are legally *helpless*, because they have no rights, because *they aren't recognized as human*. Thus, it does not matter if every German soldier abused the illegitimate "Authority" -granted to them. It is an authority that they shouldn't have been given **in the first place**.

German soldiers were free to shoot, beat, rape, steal from, and humiliate literally **anybody** walking on the streets at will. So many people acquaint the treatment of the French and Lowland Countries as the norm of German occupational status among the Third Reich's little empire.

The Germans did not offer *most* of the populations they occupied the same "Liberties" -(if you can call them that) -that they did the French.

In the East, if a German soldier was in a particularly bad mood, and just decided to, what the hell, go kill a few Polish men just because they *looked at him funny*, there would be literally **no repercussions to his actions**. None. Nada. Zip.

To the Nazis, and summarily to the people they empowered, you were not recognized as an individual with the right to personal liberties. You were considered *property*, at best, a scavenging *dog at worst*.

The Germans murdered so many people in the East, *that they are still digging up bodies*:





### Nazi-Era Mass Grave Found in Former Jewish Ghetto in Belarus

So far, authorities have recovered 730 sets of remains, though...

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/nazi-era-mass-grave-foun...>



See, the mistake is to view the treatment of the French as the *norm* of German occupation. German Western occupation, and Eastern occupation, are two entirely different animals.

Large efforts were made by the Germans to introduce a "Collaborative" -environment in occupied France. The establishment of the Vichy puppet government, monitored newspapers, e.t.c.



The Germans were more interested in almost *appeasing* the French.

Part of the reason behind this is because the Germans didn't have the manpower to fully maintain control over all the land they had conquered. This is why Partisan movements on *both* fronts were *never* effectively controlled. Ever. Partisans played havoc with the Germans from beginning to end, and they felt it, painfully.

But in the East, the status-quo was abominable.

In the West, it was more low-key and reliant upon propaganda. A lot of it had to do with the Nazi ideals of what counted as human or subhuman. In the East, there were more Jews, and *everyone* had Slavic blood in them. And there were millions of more people across wider tracts of land.

But the East is where you have to look to see the true depths of German occupation.

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**Doug Welch**, Digital Preservation Specialist (2018-present)

Answered 4 years ago · Author has 326 answers and 531.1K answer views

## How did Nazis in World War II identify Jews? What did they resort to if they were just suspicious of someone being a Jew?

Originally Answered: How did Nazis in World War II identify Jews?

The Nazis were kind of, uh, selective about which Jews they wanted to hunt, incarcerate and kill. There were many people who were the result of modern non-practicing Jews marrying Germans and having "mixed race" offspring commonly called *Mischlingen* (mixed race). I myself do not subscribe to race theory, but the Nazis

essentially used terms from animal breeding to describe how "pure" or "impure" people were. But it's a mistake to think that Germans from the early 20th century had not ever been raped, conquered or commingled with in 21 centuries of participating in European history. But the very idea that there were Germans who had some Jews in their family tree and nevertheless inherited physical traits that made them look "Aryan" drove the Nazis *crazy*.

Add to this the fact that many assimilated and practicing Jews served honorably and even heroically in the Imperial German Army in WW1 and you have a nightmare for hard-core Nazis. It has even been rumored that the officer who signed off on Hitler's Iron Cross Second Class (EK II) was Jewish but I have not seen any proof of this story.

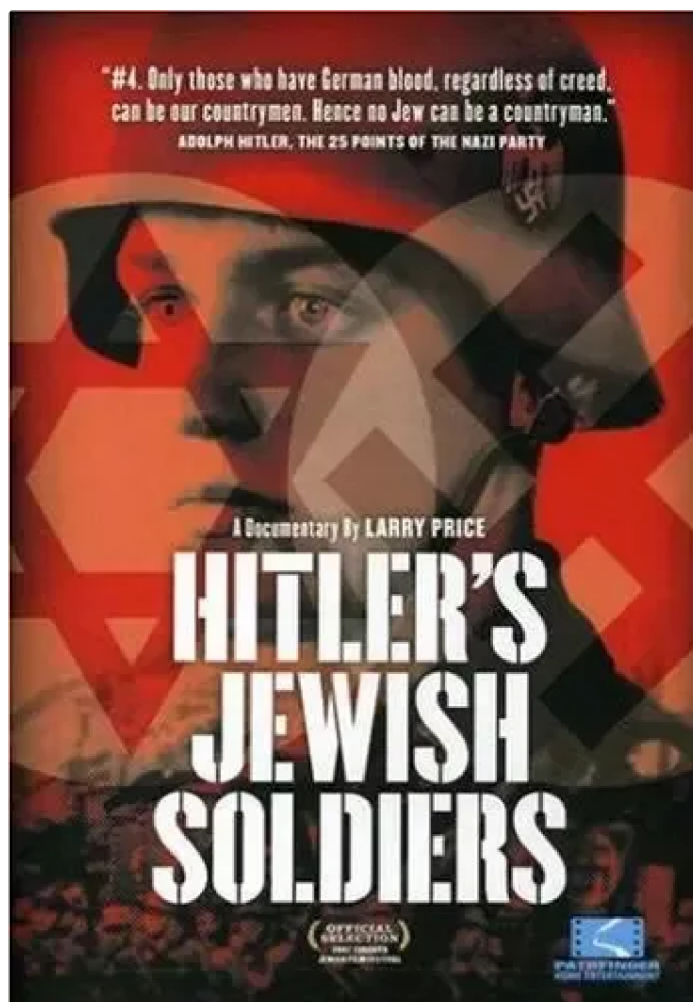
Also, Jews had a certain privileged status in the Wilhelmine years. Germany had a tradition of "court Jews" who were financiers for the petty German princes. Although the German ruling class had an antisemitic streak going back as far as Martin Luther, Jews in Germany had it pretty well off compared to their cousins in the Russian Empire, the Hapsburg dominions or the Balkans. In fact it was this factor that led to many French people suspecting that Jews in their country were in league with Germany, as seen in the Dreyfus Affair.

If you were living in a *shtetl* between Prussia and the Volga River, yes, you were pretty much dead meat when the Nazis came, but there were a number of assimilated Jews who were "useful" for the Nazis. Even if you were even a full-blooded Jew who maybe financed the Nazis in their early years, when they fought against Bolsheviks and union activists, you could get a special certificate saying you had been made an honorary Aryan.

Author Bryan Mark Rigg, himself an American citizen who served in the Israeli army, wrote an astonishing book called *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers* that really fleshes this out, but some of the Jews who served that Nazis included none other than **Erich von Manstein**, born Eduard Lewinski but adopted by his German stepdad. He was Hitler's most able field marshal but get a look at the shnozz on him! I believe Wilhelm Canaris, head of the Third Reich's military intelligence apparatus, the *Abwehr*, might have had Jewish ancestry as well and Hermann Goering's #2 **Eduard Milch** was also a *Mischling*. It goes deeper and gets weirder as **Reinhard Heydrich**, architect of the Final Solution was rumored by his enemies within the Party to have Jewish ancestry. Yes, he had straw blond hair and ice blue eyes, but get a look at his profile and you might think his grandmother had a good recipe for matzoh ball soup.

Bryan Mark Rigg gets a lot of mileage out of the photo on the cover of the book, which is a photo used by Nazis and Nazi sympathizers in the German military as a quick reference as to how "Aryan" a German soldier ought to look, but the *Landser* in the photo is half Jewish.





So the Nazis resorted to all kinds of pseudo-science in order to track down Jews, especially in communities the Nazis didn't like. They made up templates regarding eye color and hair color and had reference guides to familiarize Jew hunters with "Jewish" looking traits like shapes of brow ridges or noses. But when it came to Jews who could be of value to the Nazis, the Nazis seemed to give them a pass. This neither excuses nor in any way denies the fact that millions and millions of Jews were murdered, incarcerated and mistreated by the



Nazi regime and its allies, but it does expose the pseudo-science and quackery of Race Theory as practiced all over the world, even in Britain and the US, during the time when the Nazis were around. It was only in the aftermath of the Holocaust that academics and scientists examined Race Theory and finally rejected it. This also serves as a kind of warning to academics and other pseudo scientists in the present era that maybe scientific consensus may not exactly mean that an issue is settled.

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**Gilad Sabo**, Avid reader of WWII history books

Answered 4 years ago · Author has 619 answers and 2.1M answer views

### Were there Jews who supported Hitler?

There were those who tried to be German and supported him to some extent at the beginning, but not after 1935. That included people like [Dr. Max Naumann](#) and [Hans-Joachim Schoeps](#). Einstein, himself being Jewish, loathed those people and said they have no sense of self-respect. They were outcasts by most Jews in Germany.

In any case, those "Jewish soldiers" in the Wehrmacht, were always mischlings, meaning- at least half Aryan. They were conscripted until in 1941 the Nazi regime decided not to recruit them any longer. They were mostly not promoted to any commanding positions, with exceptional cases of course.

About 150,000 soldiers (out of total of 18 million Wehrmacht soldiers) were recruited this way. But this number is misleading several times. Once, "Jewish" to that end include everyone the racial law had to say something about his "impure" origin. That means those who had no more than two Jewish grandparents and not less than one (i.e., no less than quarter Jewish, less than that would be considered as "pure Aryan"). Second, being quarter Jewish (or "second degree mischling"), biologically, led to no sanctions aside for that he/she was not allowed to marry other second degree mischling but only Aryan, so the Jewish blood would be diluted. Third, most of those recruits were quarter Jewish, most times didn't feel Jewish at all and were not Jewish according to the Jewish law. Fourth, many of the rest, like general Milch himself, were first degree mischling but their mothers were Aryan. So aside for not being Jewish according to the Jewish law, according to the racial laws their mothers could declare that their children were born to Aryan men and not to the Jewish men registered as their father and the Ministry of internal affairs would take the identity of deceased Aryan of the right age and would subscribe him as the biological father, turning by that the child to 100% Aryan. This is how this game was played.

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**Pamela B. Zohar**, I read a lot and studied - and I take Judaism seriously.

Answered February 24, 2021 · Author has 14.8K answers and 12.9M answer views

### How did Nazis know who what Jewish or not if they looked like the average Aryan population?

I really wish this legend would go away and die.

Yes, the Nazis did 'look' at people and had charts about 'perfect Aryan features' and 'Jewish physiognomy' (faces) but - seriously - the MAIN way they identified Jews was through public records.

People had all kinds of public records - where you were born (Jewish hospital? = Jewish kid), where you attended school (Jewish school? = Jewish kid), what RELIGION you were - in a lot of Europe, that information was PUBLIC RECORD and it would even be printed on your ID cards.

For a Jew to 'hide', they not only had to 'look non Jewish', they ALSO had to have public records and documents ('ID papers') that NOT ONLY did not reveal their Jewish identity, BUT ALSO falsely declared a NON JEWISH identity.

And such things - fake papers - were a whole industry, but they didn't work perfectly - because people don't live in a vacuum - they live in communities - i neighborhoods, with relatives, and friends....

Your relatives are Jewish? You are a Jew. You live in a Jewish neighborhood? You are a Jew. You belong to a Jewish club? You are a Jew.

It absolutely was not 'just how they look'. Although anybody in Nazi ruled territories who DID 'look Jewish' was in for a difficult time, also Jews who did NOT look Jewish (stereotypically) needed a lot more than just blondish hair and a straight nose to 'pass'. They ALSO needed identity papers, including a solid non-Jewish family background, community and history to back that up, if questioned.

Like being undercover behind the Iron Curtain - all the identity papers in the world couldn't save you IF YOU CAME UNDER SUSPICION, because there was no actual real data to back up what the fake paperwork claimed.

Nazis not only seized records, and kept records, they also paid bounties to people who TURNED IN their neighbors - this was not an easy time to 'hide', no matter what you may have personally looked like.

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**Walter Sperr**, has written about Operation Pastorius and World War II.

Answered 1 year ago

### How did the Nazis find out if a woman was Jewish or not?

By law in the Third Reich, there was no real distinction between females and males in identifying Jews. The method for identification of the racial origins of Germans, Roma (gypsies) and Jews was determined under The Laws of Nuremberg. Those laws were passed in 1935 and were based on race and genealogy. Specifically, a Jew was an individual who is descended from three or more grandparents. Two grandparents of Jewish blood made that person a "Mischling" or half Jew. A man or woman married to someone of Jewish blood was a "Geltungsjuden" and was treated as a full Jew, subject to the same persecution and restrictions. Fundamentally, the "Law For the Protection of German Blood and Honor" forbade marriage between those of "pure" German blood and Jews, as well as those of "mixed Jewish blood". Sexual intercourse outside of marriage between men and women in those categories was forbidden. Also, German women under the age of 45 were not permitted to be employed in Jewish households. In addition, the "Nuremberg Laws on

Citizenship and Race", which were also adopted at the same time in 1935, effectively removed all rights of citizenship from Jews, Roma and others. There were severe penalties for violations of these laws, which laid the official groundwork for the persecution of Jews in Germany and, ultimately, throughout most of Europe for the next ten years. If you assumed that the primary method of identifying male Jews was because they were circumcised, you are mistaken. Circumcision was practiced among Aryans too and was prescribed by pediatricians as "medically beneficial" for males. So what means was really used by Nazi officials to identify Jews? Among other things, tax records, synagogue membership lists, census records, information provided by relatives, friends, neighbors, police registration records, and more were the most widely used methods of identifying who was Jewish.

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**Wolfgang Maleck**, Several papers in History of Medicine, Bookworm

Updated 1 year ago · Author has 5.1K answers and 1.8M answer views

### Are the photos of black Nazis during WW2 real?

There are several aspects to this, in part already mentioned by others.

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Firstly, the number of black people - including mixed-race people - in Germany in 1933 was fairly low, and is estimated to be in the low 5-digit range.

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Secondly, although there were VERY few black people that had come from the colonies pre-1918, with some achieving a certain "celebrity status"

[Martin Dibobe, preußischer Afro-Sozi: Black Power im Kaiserreich - SPIEGEL ONLINE - einestages](#)



most "blacks" in Weimar and Nazi times were mixed-raced people resulting from sexual relations between German women and (mostly French) black soldiers stationed in Germany post WW1, meaning the westernmost parts (Rhineland).

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Thirdly, as most such sexual relations were out of wedlock, there was no easy way for the (Nazi) government to PROVE that they were black, as long as the mother registered the father as "unknown".

This was, from the Nazi-viewpoint, even worse with JEWISH out-of-wedlock children with unknown fathers. According to family legend, both MY maternal grandmother and the father of MY wife were half-Jewish, but only in reality, not on paper: here they were out-of-wedlock with unknown father. Good for me, so bad for the Nazis ;-(

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Fourthly, the LAW, meaning "Nürnberger Rassengesetze", officially targeted the Jews only, at least insofar as it had detailed paragraphs.

As this was, from the Nazi-viewpoint, the most important problem ideologically as well as quantitatively, and also, because the Nazis did NOT use a real "racial" definition for this, but the religion of the grandparents to classify people as

- Jews (more than 1/2 of grandparents Jewish)
- "Half-Jews" (1/2 of grandparents Jewish)
- "One-quarter-Jews" (1/4 of grandparents Jewish)
- Arians.

The religion could be seen from official records.

"Race" could usually be seen if looking at a person, but not from the records - at least not in persons with unknown fathers and clearly German mothers.

And in cases where the father was himself mixed race, race was probably hard to see, much less to prove. No DNA tests back then.

Even if the father was really black, such things are not always easy.

We all know that the person in the photo below insists that he is African-American, as in "The first African American POTUS"

But of course, he is mixed-race, with a KENYAN father, and if he would tell you that he is white, with a father from, say Italy, and you had no DNA tests and no official record on the father, it would not be easy to prove otherwise. Of course, a little dark for an Italian, but not impossible.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8d/President\\_Barack\\_Obama.jpg/220px-President\\_Barack\\_Obama.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8d/President_Barack_Obama.jpg/220px-President_Barack_Obama.jpg)

With Roma, the situation was somewhat intermediate in between Jews and Blacks:

there WERE databases (on paper, of course) of Roma People in the Weimar Republic, but, in all likelihood, they listed only those who lived off the grid, or came in conflict with the law, although the exact application



might have been different from state to state, Germany being federal.

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Fifthly, this resulted in prosecution against black people and even Roma people being somewhat unofficial, and often less systematic than against Jews.

Yes, I know, the Nazis killed about a half million Roma. As with the millions of Jews, only a minority of these had lived in Germany pre-1933. Most were from Poland and elsewhere in the occupied countries.

According to a (post-war) German government publication <https://www.bundestag.de> > resource > blob > WD-1-020-09-pdf-data, the pre-1933 Roma lists had about 15k entries, and towards the end of the Nazi dictatorship the list had about 25k entries.

So, just as with black/mixed-race people, the number of Roma in Germany was lower than the number of Jews by a factor of about 20, and just as with the Jews, 90% or more of those killed had lived outside of Germany in 1933.

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Sixth, the black people living mostly in the Rhineland meant that many of those were Catholics, living in a Catholic Region. And Hitler tried to avoid open conflicts with the Catholic church, well knowing that besides Lutheran Finland, most countries that were deliberately allied with the Nazis were Catholic.

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So finally, I would strongly suggest that there were A FEW "black", or rather, "mixed-race" soldiers in Wehrmacht. After all, someone born around 1920 would have been old enough to serve in WW2.

But if you look at WW2 photos and footage, you realise that this was not a mass phenomenon.

COULD not be with a group that was less than 1/1000th of the total population, even if the proportion among young people would have been higher, but still far less than 1%.

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**Kurj Ozmra**, Knows a lot about history after 1900

Answered 2 years ago

**Years ago, I was told that in WW2, the Nazis had a senior ranking officer who was secretly Jewish. Is this true?**

Originally Answered: I was told years ago that in WW2, the Nazi's had a senior ranking officer who successfully hid his Jewish ancestry. Is this true?

Bryan Rigg estimated that **nearly 150,000 Jewish people fought for the German army in World War II** (though many had half-Jewish ancestry)

However, the most famous example of a Jewish person fighting for the German army is a man called **Solomon Perel**.

He was born in Germany to a German Jewish family in 1925; when the Nazis began to persecute Jewish people, he and his family fled to Poland. After the Germans invaded Poland he escaped to the Soviet-occupied parts of Poland. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union, Solomon was captured by a German army unit. But, because he was a native German speaker, he convinced them he was an ethnic German living outside of Germany, and began a career as the unit's Russian-German interpreter.

During his time as the unit's interpreter, he played a key role in the capture of Joseph Stalin's son, Yakov Dzhugashvili, and afterwards became loved by the unit, with the commanding officer even offering to adopt

him.

*So, while he was never a "senior ranking officer", he was "useful" to the German military.*

It's worth noting he tried to escape from the German army multiple times, all unsuccessful.

Being a minor, he was eventually kicked out of the army and forced to join the Hitler Youth.

Eventually in 1945 he was captured by the US Army but was released soon after.

Soon after the war he and his brother moved to Israel, and fought in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and later went on to become an author and motivational speaker.

He wrote a book about his experience in World War II, called *"I Was Hitler Youth Salomon"*.

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**Stephanie Wilder**, Teacher, Shebrew, Knows Jewish Roots of Jesus/NT

Answered 3 years ago · Author has **890** answers and **1.8M** answer views

**At the end of WWII, when the Jews who survived the Holocaust came home to the very places where many turned them in to the Nazis, what did they do?**

Not many people know that the Jews were still considered "enemy aliens" by the US military, who did not know what to do with them, since no one in Europe wanted to take them in. The oh-so-helpful Red Cross woke up from a 12-year coma to help these DPs (what they called "displaced persons") find places to settle. One joke is that a Red Cross "worker" asked a DP, "Where would you live if you could?" The man replied, "Australia." The worker was shocked and exclaimed, "But that's so far!" The Jewish man asked, "From where?"

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Of course, there were stories of Jews, particularly from Poland, who return



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### Related Answer



**Kevin Dolgin**, Associate Professor at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (2006-present)

Answered 2 years ago · Author has **1.2K** answers and **5.6M** answer views

**Is it true that 6 million Jews were killed by Hitler? Is there any proof (no offense)? If he did, where did all the Jews who immigrated to Palestine in 1940–1948 come from?**

I was about to take offence from your question, but I see you're from the UAE. I'm pretty familiar with your part of the world, and with... ahem... certain holes in the educations of many people from the Gulf, so I'm going to cut you some slack. Please do understand that in Europe or North America, questioning the reality of the holocaust is highly offensive, hence some of the responses you have been (understandably) getting.

The reason it is offensive is that there is *so much* evidence. Questioning the reality of the holocaust is like questioning the reality of the second world war, or of Pol Pot's massacres of his people.

Literally hundreds of thousands of Germans were involved in the creation, outfitting and management of the camps, as were many foreign workers / prisoners. Many thousands of people did, actually, survive to tell their stories, and extensive investigations and trials were carried out after the war. The camps themselves were discovered and liberated by both Western allied and Soviet troops, in many cases with prisoners still in them, and testimony and video documentation is extensive.

And some of the camps still exist as testimony to those who died. I have been to Auschwitz... one does not come away without being profoundly affected. Honestly, I would suggest that you go there (it's near Cracow). I think it is important for all people, of all ethnicities, religions, and cultures to go and to see for themselves what human beings are capable of doing to other human beings. I strongly suggest that you first read "Night" by Eli Wiesel and "If This is a Man", by Primo Levi.

As for your specific question about populations, here is a brief table of the Jewish populations of certain countries that had been under Nazi occupation, comparing the Jewish populations of 1933 with those of 1950<sup>[1]</sup>:

<b>Jewish Population</b>	<b>1933</b>	<b>1950</b>
Poland	3 300 000	45 000
Hungary	445 000	190 000
Germany	565 000	37 000
Austria	250 000	18 000
Czechoslovakia	357 000	17 000
Romania	757 000	280 000
Greece	100 000	7 000
Yugoslavia	70 000	3 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 844 000</b>	<b>597 500</b>

Note that many countries are not included here, including those parts of the Soviet Union that were occupied. I hope you understand why so many of those who managed to escape death, following the horror of the holocaust, decided to go to help create Israel.

Lastly — and this is primarily for those who might be surprised that I'm honoring this question with a response — I am sincere in saying that the education of people from some parts of the Middle East can be incomplete about this topic, just as the education of people in Europe may be incomplete about the plight of the Palestinians.

One of the most extraordinary conversations I ever had was in Byblos, in Lebanon. A business acquaintance of mine, who had become a friend, took me to dinner there one night, just the two of us. When we sat down he said to me: "I know that your father was Jewish, and you are American. I am a Lebanese Shiite, I'm not sure I've had an objective education about the history of the Jews and the founding of Israel. I want you to tell me about it." I responded that he was laying an enormous responsibility on me, and that neither was I an expert, nor objectively unbiased, but he insisted. I agreed on the condition that he would tell *me* about the civil wars in Lebanon and his understanding of the Palestinian situation. He agreed. That exchange will remain engraved in my mind forever, I think we were both changed by it. As such, Mister Ziad, far from taking umbrage at your question, I hope that you will continue to look for the truth, for it is frightening and important, and I compliment you for not simply taking what you may have heard at face value.

## Footnotes

[\[1\] Jewish Population of Europe in 1945](#) ↗

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## Related Questions

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When the Nazis tattooed numbers on their prisoners during the Holocaust, it was already a dehumanizing act, but is it known whether the Nazis knew at the time that the Jewish religion prohibits tattoos?

How did Nazis in World War II identify Jews? What did they resort to if they were just suspicious of someone being a Jew?

What was the policy of Mexico towards Jews fleeing the Nazis?

At the end of WWII, when the Jews who survived the Holocaust came home to the very places where many turned them in to the Nazis, what did they do?

Years ago, I was told that in WW2, the Nazis had a senior ranking officer who was secretly Jewish. Is this true?

How did the Nazis find out if a woman was Jewish or not?

Why weren't Jews able to hide from the Nazis?

What happened to Jewish Allied soldiers captured by the Nazis?

Were there Nazi soldiers who tried to save Jewish lives?

If you were a Jew in Nazi Germany during WW2 and assuming you are not yet under custody, how do you guarantee your survival to the end of the war without leaving Germany or relying on too much luck?

If you are a Jew in Nazi Germany, how do you survive from the beginning to the end of the Nazi rule?

Why did the Nazis consider Jews a race?

[Did any Jewish to Nazi marriages occur after WW2?](#)

How did the Nazis determine if you were Jewish or not?

How exactly did the Nazi Germans know if a person was Jewish?